ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A bit error rate estimate is generated for a received signal. This involves using an error correction decoding technique to generate a block of decoded bits from the received signal, and using an error detection technique to determine whether at least

5   one of the decoded bits from the block of decoded bits has an erroneous value. If none of the decoded bits from the block of decoded bits has an erroneous value, then the bit error rate estimate is calculated from the received signal. Otherwise, the bit error rate estimate is set equal to a value that is based on a previously calculated bit error rate. This may be further refined by using a predetermined value in place of a value based on

10   the previously calculated bit error rate if it is detected that a number of consecutively received blocks were received with non-correctable errors.